

all these statistics is the sobering message that HIV/AIDS still devastates real people and real families across the Latino community. It is a message with special significance for me as the senior Senator from Nevada, where 18 percent of the newly diagnosed are Latinos.

We must be mindful of other statistics that provide context. According to the U.S. Census, individuals of Latino or Hispanic origin numbered over 44 million in 2005. They are also the fastest growing minority group in the Nation. In Nevada alone, the Hispanic population has soared by 40 percent from 2000 to 2005.

All these factors highlight the need to reverse the course of the epidemic among Latinos, if we are to make headway against HIV/AIDS in America. Fortunately, the disparities and challenges facing the Latino community also point to the steps we can take. From teaching health care providers to deliver culturally competent care to funding vital programs like the Ryan White CARE Act, these steps are critical to winning the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Educating and engaging the public remains a cornerstone of our efforts. In southern Nevada, for example, non-profit organizations are partnering with public health officials to provide HIV testing and information to the public in observance of National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. Similar events are expected to take place across the Nation.

National Latino AIDS Awareness Day is a time not just to spread the word about HIV/AIDS issues specific to the Latino community. It is also a day of hope, an opportunity to reflect on the milestones we have reached and to reaffirm the goals and ideals of this day. So, in looking toward the future, let us all renew our commitment to ending the HIV/AIDS crisis—among Latinos and all Americans everywhere.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT JOSEPH B. MILLEDGE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I must inform the Senate of the death of Sergeant Joseph B. Milledge a Glenwood, IA, native who was killed in Iraq on October 5, 2007, during combat patrol in Baghdad. Sergeant Milledge was part of the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division stationed in Vilseck, Germany. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends, especially his wife Amanda and their 1-year-old son Joseph, Jr., as well as his parents, Carla and Jack.

Joseph Milledge was born in Council Bluffs, IA, and later moved to Glenwood with his family where he attended high school. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 2003, a year after he graduated. By all accounts, Joseph was a highly literate man who enjoyed reading books on religion and philos-

ophy and writing poetry. In fact, I understand he gave his wife a book of his unpublished poetry this summer. Joseph loved his family unconditionally and cherished spending time with his son, nieces, and nephews.

Sergeant Milledge was very dedicated to his country and the cause for which he was fighting. His mother explained that he didn't want to go back for a second tour because of his family but did so because he knew it was his duty to his country. Carla Milledge said, "You couldn't have asked for a better father or husband. He loved his wife and son. He loved them with his whole being."

I know his loss will be felt very strongly, not least by his infant son. But, as his wife Carla said, "He'll know his daddy was a hero and died for what he believed in." Sergeant Joseph B. Milledge is indeed a great American hero who will be remembered for his courage, his strength, and his love. He gave the ultimate sacrifice for his family, friends, and country, and we are forever grateful.

TRIBUTE TO JO ANN DAVIS

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the First Congressional District of Virginia is, like all of Virginia, a unique treasure. Beginning not far from the Nation's Capital, it stretches down Virginia's eastern coast along the Chesapeake Bay, as far south as the cities of Newport News and Hampton. Today, the First District is home to crucial national defense resources, like the Marine Corps' installation at Quantico and Langley Air Force Base. It is also home to national historic landmarks like Jamestown, Yorktown, and Williamsburg, places that gave birth to Virginia and that are forever tied to the independence of our Nation and our Constitution.

On October 6, 2007, the people of Virginia's First Congressional District lost one of its most respected and admired leaders, a dedicated Member of Congress and loyal friend, Representative Jo Ann Davis. It is with deep sadness that I share my thoughts on the passing of my colleague.

Born in North Carolina, Jo Ann Davis attended Hampton Roads Business College in Virginia, later obtaining her real estate license and real estate broker's license over the next several years. In 1990, she started her own company, Jo Ann Davis Realty, and followed this successful endeavor with a run for public office in 1997. Serving as a delegate in the Virginia General Assembly for 4 years, Jo Ann Davis became the first Republican woman to serve Virginia in the U.S. Congress after winning election in 2000.

Representative Davis was a relentless champion for the needs of the First District. It was my privilege to work with her on many matters, ranging from national defense to the environment, and in that regard she worked hard to improve the health of the

Chesapeake Bay. Also, I commend her diligent leadership in the removal of the James River Reserve Fleet from Newport News. From her support for the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge to her concern with the preservation of Dragon Run or providing funding for oyster restoration, she always put the quality of Virginia's environment above politics.

With sincere passion and concern, Representative Davis worked to improve our Nation's armed services and the lives of the men and women who bravely answer the call to duty. She provided strong representation for the communities in and surrounding the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Dahlgren and the Marine Corps base at Quantico, ensuring that these facilities continue to make important contributions to protecting the Nation and to the economic foundations of their respective areas. Her initiative to increase the life insurance benefit paid to survivors of military members and her advocacy on behalf of the rights and benefits of Federal employees will continue to be appreciated in the years ahead.

I have always admired Representative Davis for her strong convictions and the tenacity that she brought to bear in acting on them. She fought a courageous struggle against cancer, and I will miss her insights and her friendship in our Virginia congressional delegation.

I close with a personal note that we both shared interests in equestrian activities. There is an old English saying that "the outside of the horse is good for the inside of the man." As an avid, accomplished rider, she often quipped with me that the saying applies equally to a woman. She loved the noble horse.

I join with my colleagues from the Commonwealth and from the entire U.S. Congress in expressing my deepest sympathies to her husband, her two sons, and her extended family. They will remain in our thoughts and prayers during the difficult days ahead.

BAN ASBESTOS IN AMERICA ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, In the nearly 7 years that I have worked to pass the Ban Asbestos in America Act, I have been aided by so many dedicated and driven individuals without whom this day would not have been possible. I wish to take a minute to thank them for all they have done.

I would like to begin by thanking my entire personal staff who have taken on this fight with me. Over 7 years many of them have come and gone, but I know they are all very proud today because each and every one of them, in their own unique way, has helped this effort along.

In particular I would like to thank Bill Kamela who, as the head of my HELP Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, has carried the torch on this issue for so many years.